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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U.S.D. A. .... Washington, D. C. .... July 20, 1953 ..... SS 128

## Prospects for Third Largest Crop Production

Good to excellent prospects in much of the main agricultural area of the country in 1953 point to the third largest crop production of record. June brought good "corn weather," good harvesting conditions for early grains, and good growing conditions for spring-planted crops. The severe drought in the central and southern Great Plains, although causing heavy acreage loss of crops, is causing greatest concern at present in connection with pastures and livestock.

Total volume of crops in 1953 is now indicated at about 130 percent of the 1923-32 average. Only the 135.5 percent in 1948 and the 132 percent last year were larger.

## Drought is Severe in South Central Area

Drought in a large portion of the central and southern Great Plains area is seriously affecting pasture feed and water for livestock and damaging prospects for late-growing crops. In some of this area, dryland winter wheat failed for the third or fourth consecutive season. In cotton-growing sections the full intended acreage has not been planted. Many growers still hope for rain in July or early August to permit planting of sorghums for feed. Distress marketings of thin livestock have been heavy.

## Acreage in Crops is Above Average; Acreage to be Harvested is Smaller

Nearly 360 million acres of crops were planted or are growing in this 1953 crop season. This is 4-1/2 million acres more than in the 1952 season. It is more than 1.2 million acres above the average for 1942-51, when the annual totals ranged from 351 million in 1942 to 366 million in 1944. Acreage losses are expected to total about 17-1/2 million acres, 4 million more than last year. The 342 million acres of crops expected to be harvested in 1953 is slightly larger than last year but about 3 million acres less than the average total harvested in 1942-51.

## Here is a run-down of July estimates of principal crops:

Corn, all .....	3,337	mil. bu.	Second largest crop
Wheat, all .....	1,175	mil. bu.	9% below '52; 8% above average
Winter .....	821	mil. bu.	Slightly above av.
All spring...	353	mil. bu.	Near-record crop
Oats .....	1,319	mil. bu.	Slightly below av.
Barley .....	247	mil. bu.	Above '52; below av.
Rye .....	17.4	mil. bu.	One-third below av.
Flaxseed .....	40.0	mil. bu.	4% above average
Rice .....	48.4	mil. bags	Nearly equals '52 record crop
Potatoes .....	377	mil. bu.	8% below average
Sweetpotatoes ..	32.7	mil. bu.	40% below average
Tobacco .....	2,125	mil. lb.	6% below '52
Hay, all .....	105	mil. tons	3% above average

## Wheat Crop 8 Percent Above Average

Production of all wheat is expected to total 1,175 million bushels, an increase of 42 million bushels over the June 1 forecast. Improvement during the past month in winter wheat prospects more than offset the slight decline in the prospective spring wheat crop. Total production is 9 percent smaller than the 1952 crop, but 7.9 percent larger than the 10-year average.

## Second Largest Corn Crop in Prospect

A corn crop of 3,337 million bushels is in prospect for 1953. This would barely exceed the 3307 million bushels produced last year but would be the second largest of record and 10 percent above average. July 1 corn condition indicated a yield of 41.3 bushels per harvested acre; this yield would be second only to the 42.5 bushels harvested in 1948, and is 6.1 bushels above average.

## Large Feed Supplies Per Animal Unit

Supplies of feed grains per animal unit will be among the largest on record if present estimates of production and carryover stocks are borne out. And the area of sorghums to be harvested for all uses is estimated at 13,617,000 acres—one-fourth above last year, although the yields are still uncertain.

## Ample Hay Supplies Except in Drought Areas

Hay was harvested rapidly under exceptionally favorable conditions during June, and with a few exceptions is of good quality. Dry weather in June, however, may have reduced prospects for later cuts and later kinds of hay. Prospects on July 1, however, were for a relatively large cut of over 105 million tons. With a carryover of nearly 15 million tons, supplies will be ample generally, except in the drought areas. The 75 million acres in hay meadows is the largest since 1945.

## Pasture Condition Lowest Since 1936

Pastures were severely affected by the hot June weather, and the condition of 76 percent is one point less than the low July 1, 1952 mark and 11 points below average for the date. Grazing was excellent in the northern area from Pennsylvania and Delaware westward through the Lake States and the Northwest to the Pacific, but tapered off to the northeast and to the south of that wide strip, becoming extremely sparse in the drought areas.

Range pastures improved markedly and supply good grazing across the northern half of the area; feed is fair to good in the middle portion, but fades rapidly in southern Utah and Nevada to practically none in the severest drought area. Livestock is in good condition except in the drought areas where shrinkage is heavy even with supplemental feeding. Marketings were heavy from dry areas, and some moved to areas with better feed.

### Farm Storage of Grain July 1

Corn .....	995,279,000 bushels	— third largest
Wheat .....	72,840,000 bushels	— 15% above a year ago; 21% below av.
Soybeans .....	20 million bushels	— More than double July 1 average
Oats .....	220 million bushels	— About average
Barley.....	26 million bushels	— Smallest farm carry-over since middle 1930's.
Rye .....	1,492,000 bushels	— Third lowest in 20 years of record
Flaxseed .....	1,739,000 bushels	— Two-fifths as large as year ago

### July 1 Cotton Acreage Above Average

Cotton in cultivation July 1, 1953 is estimated at 24,618,000 acres. This is 9 percent less than the 26,922,000 acres in cultivation on July 1, 1952, but is 12 percent more than the 10-year average. The estimate includes acreage which had been planted but was not up; this may amount to 1-1/2 million acres, most of it in Northwest Texas.

### Fruit Crop Smaller Than Year Ago

Deciduous fruit prospects are for a slightly smaller tonnage than last year and 5 percent below average. A larger apple crop than last year is more than offset by a smaller grape crop. Other major fruit crops are expected to be about the same as in 1952. Output of each major fruit, except pears and cherries, is smaller than average. The outlook for 1953-54 citrus crops is good, except in Texas.

### Total 1953 Pig Crop 11% Below Average

The 1953 spring pig crop totaled 50,726,000 head, 10 percent fewer than last spring and the smallest since 1948. The number of sows farrowing this spring was 12 percent below last spring and 19 percent smaller than the 10-year average. The number of pigs saved per litter is the highest on record. The trend toward earlier farrowings continued.

For the coming fall crop, reports on breeding intentions indicate a total of 5,054,000 sows to farrow, 5 percent below the number farrowing last fall. It would be the smallest number since 1947.

The combined 1953 spring and fall pig crop is now expected to be about 84 million head. This would be 8 percent below 1952 and 11 percent below the 1942-51 average.

### Milk Production in First Half of 1953 Sets Record

Milk produced during the first half of 1953 totaled 63.2 billion pounds, a new high for the period, and some 3-1/3 billion pounds more than last year. Output during June was 12,349 million pounds, 4 percent more than a year earlier and the largest since 1947. However, in five years during the middle 1940's June production was higher than this year. June output provided 2.58 pounds of milk per capita per day, slightly more than in 1952, but otherwise the smallest output per person for the month in more than two decades of record.

### January — June Egg Production 1% Less Than Year Ago

Farm flocks laid 5,051 million eggs in June—1 percent more than in June last year but 1 percent less than the 1942-51 average. Egg production for the first 6 months of this year was 1 percent smaller than a year ago.

Rate of egg production in June was 16.6 eggs per layer—2 percent above last year.

### Prices Received and Prices Paid Lower

The index of prices received by farmers declined 2 points to 259 between May 15 and June 15. Sharp drops in cattle and wheat prices contributed most to the decline. These decreases were largely offset by sharp increases in prices of truck crops, for which adverse weather has reduced current supplies, together with higher prices for several important fruit crops.

The index of prices paid by farmers including interest, taxes, and wage rates declined 4 points to 275. This decline resulted mostly from lower prices for feeder and replacement livestock—primarily feeder cattle. Lower prices for feed also contributed to the decline.

The parity ratio remained unchanged from a month earlier at 94; on June 15 last year it stood at 102.

### Farm Wages Rise; Farm Employment Up

Farm wage rates were about 1-1/2 percent higher around July 1 than they were a year earlier. Rates were also up about the same amount from April 1, or slightly less than the usual rise for the quarter.

In late June 11,132,000 people were working on farms, over 100,000 more than a year earlier. Employment increased 364,000 from a month earlier, slightly more than the usual increase at this season. The number of family workers is estimated at 7,944,000, the lowest for the month in 29 years of record. The increase in hired farm workers from May to June was nearly 900,000, or 39 percent. The 5-year average increase for the same period is 31 percent.

### Current Indexes for Agriculture

Index Numbers	Base Period	June 1953
Prices received by farmers .....	1910-14=100	259
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes and wage rates.....	1910-14=100	275
Parity ratio .....	1910-14=100	94
Farm wage rates .....	1910-14=100	1/ 514
Wholesale prices of food .....	1947-49=100	2/ 104
Retail prices of food .....	1947-49=100	2/ 112
Weekly factory earnings.....	1947-49=100	2/ 149
Production Comparisons	Jan.-June 1952	Jan.-June 1953
Milk, (bil. lb.) .....	59.8	63.2
Eggs, (bil.) .....	34.5	34.1
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.) .....	3/ 2,779	3/ 3,615
Lamb & Mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	3/ 239	3/ 272
Pork & lard (mil. lb.).....	3/ 5,158	3/ 4,302
All meats (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	3/ 8,381	3/ 8,469

1/ July figure.

2/ May figures.

3/ January-May under Federal inspection.

## CURRENT ESTIMATES OF FARM OUTPUT AND CASH RECEIPTS

Despite severe drought in the Southern Plains, the total output from American farms this year may be only 1 percent below last year's record. This estimate is based chiefly on crop production prospects as of July 1, and on current livestock reports.

Farm output in 1953 is now estimated at 143 percent of the 1935-39 average.

Farmers' cash receipts from selling their products (including Commodity Credit loans) are tentatively estimated at \$2,060 million for June 1953—nearly 6 percent above May but 13 percent below June of last year.

From livestock, cash receipts were about 2 percent lower in June than in May, and 7 percent lower than in June 1952.

From crops, cash receipts were 27 percent above a month earlier and 22 percent below a year earlier.

**U. S. Farm Output, Indicated 1953 with Comparisons  
(Index Numbers, 1935-39 = 100)**

Item	1935-39	1948-52	1952	Indicated 1953 1/
Total farm output .....	100	140	144	143
Food livestock production 2/.....	100	140	148	149
Crop production 3/.....	100	133	134	132
Farm-produced power 4/	100	50	41	37

1/ Indications for 1953 based chiefly on July 1953 report of the Crop Reporting Board.

2/ Dairy products, poultry products, meat animals, wool and mohair.

3/ All crops, including production of feed for horses and mules.

4/ Not included in total farm output. Farm-produced power includes the feed and pasture consumed by horses and mules, and the product added in converting this feed and pasture into animal power.

**Cash Receipts from Farming, United States 1/**

Source	May 1953	June 1953 2/
	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.
Farm marketings and CCC loans 3/ ...	1,945	2,060
Livestock and products .....	1,425	1,400
Meat animals .....	673	
Dairy products .....	407	
Poultry and eggs .....	318	
Other .....	27	
Crops .....	520	660
Food grains.....	44	
Feed crops .....	126	
Cotton (lint and seed).....	15	
Oil-bearing crops .....	40	
Tobacco .....	13	
Vegetables .....	120	
Fruits and tree nuts.....	70	
Other .....	92	
Government payments .....	34	
Total cash receipts .....	1,979	

1/ For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

2/ Preliminary.

3/ Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

**Cash Receipts from Farm Marketings, by States, May 1953 1/ 2/**

State and Region	Livestock and products	Crops	Total
	\$ Thous.	\$ Thous.	\$ Thous.
Maine .....	8,903	2,362	11,265
New Hampshire .....	4,850	615	5,465
Vermont.....	8,317	908	9,225
Massachusetts.....	11,812	3,667	15,479
Rhode Island .....	1,573	465	2,038
Connecticut .....	9,469	1,937	11,406
New York .....	57,744	14,224	71,968
New Jersey .....	19,174	10,616	29,790
Pennsylvania .....	55,049	11,618	66,667
North Atlantic .....	176,891	46,412	223,303
Ohio .....	57,327	19,362	76,689
Indiana .....	56,055	15,984	72,039
Illinois .....	94,328	43,331	137,659
Michigan .....	37,168	11,203	48,371
Wisconsin .....	86,613	4,936	91,549
East North Central .....	331,491	94,816	426,307
Minnesota .....	80,050	16,200	96,250
Iowa .....	134,198	30,322	164,520
Missouri .....	55,652	6,554	62,206
North Dakota .....	11,352	13,778	25,130
South Dakota .....	27,267	5,762	33,029
Nebraska.....	60,540	16,378	76,918
Kansas .....	41,381	10,689	52,070
West North Central .....	410,440	99,683	510,123
Delaware .....	6,443	1,255	7,698
Maryland .....	13,890	10,703	24,593
Virginia .....	21,053	5,226	26,279
West Virginia .....	7,288	1,214	8,502
North Carolina .....	19,877	9,802	29,679
South Carolina .....	6,655	4,917	11,572
Georgia .....	21,545	6,658	28,203
Florida .....	10,668	45,775	56,443
South Atlantic .....	107,419	85,550	192,969
Kentucky .....	22,317	2,459	24,776
Tennessee .....	19,775	6,003	25,778
Alabama .....	13,584	6,902	20,486
Mississippi .....	13,396	4,375	17,771
Arkansas .....	14,809	5,089	19,898
Louisiana .....	9,195	5,509	14,704
Oklahoma .....	23,117	4,224	27,341
Texas .....	76,982	18,379	95,361
South Central.....	193,175	52,940	246,115
Montana .....	6,064	6,289	12,353
Idaho .....	10,753	3,773	14,526
Wyoming .....	4,806	526	5,332
Colorado .....	25,784	5,881	31,665
New Mexico .....	9,432	1,592	11,024
Arizona .....	14,465	9,062	23,527
Utah.....	9,838	1,049	10,887
Nevada .....	2,625	135	2,760
Washington .....	15,355	9,223	24,578
Oregon .....	12,638	7,093	19,731
California .....	93,574	96,233	189,807
Western Region .....	205,334	140,856	346,190
United States .....	1,424,750	520,257	1,945,007

1/ All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month, minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month.

2/ For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

**Parity Prices for Farm Products  
and Actual Prices Received**

Commodity and Unit	Actual Price		Parity Price
	May 15, 1953	June 15, 1953	June 15, 1953
Wheat, bu. .... dol.	2.06	1.88	2.42
Corn, bu. .... dol.	1.49	1.46	1.76
Peanuts, lb. .... ct.	11.2	11.1	13.2
Cotton, lb. 1/ .... ct.	31.73	31.51	33.98
Potatoes, bu. .... dol.	1.15	1.02	1.58
Hogs, 100 lb. .... dol.	23.10	22.70	20.00
Beef cattle, 100 lb. .... dol.	17.50	16.00	20.70
Calves, 100 lb. .... dol.	19.80	17.00	23.10
Lambs, 100 lb. .... dol.	22.40	22.00	22.50
Butterfat, lb. .... ct.	65.1	65.0	73.4
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb. .. dol.	3.92	<u>2/</u> 3.86	4.62
Chickens, live, lb. .... ct.	26.5	24.9	30.2
Eggs, doz. .... ct.	45.9	45.7	<u>3/</u> 47.1

1/ American upland cotton.

2/ Preliminary.

3/ Transitional parity.

**Prices Received and Prices Paid by Farmers  
Index Numbers, 1910-14 = 100**

Item	June 1952	May 1953	June 1953
Prices received by farmers ....	292	261	259
Crops.....	277	243	251
Food grains .....	238	242	222
Feed grains and hay .....	226	205	198
Tobacco .....	437	426	425
Cotton .....	319	268	266
Fruit .....	220	224	253
Truck crops.....	250	182	270
Oil-bearing crops.....	289	285	280
Livestock and products .....	306	277	267
Meat animals .....	380	317	299
Dairy products .....	277	257	254
Poultry and eggs .....	181	218	213
Prices paid by farmers:			
All commodities .....	273	264	259
Commodities used in living	272	270	270
Commodities used in			
production .....	273	257	248
All commodities, interest,			
taxes, and wage rates .....	<u>1/</u> 287	279	275
Parity ratio (prices rec'd to			
prices paid by farmers) .....	102	94	94

1/ Revised.

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